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Newsletter #24:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Another rather slow week for the auction scene. There are a few smaller auctions coming up that might interest some of you. These are mainly web auction platforms but worth a look.

Is VCoins Dead?

My title is only taken from a mass email that went out to all the VCoins dealers last week. One of the dealers wrote that to all the other dealers lamenting that he hasn't seen any real sales in months on Vcoins. For those of you unaware, VCoins is an online platform where smaller dealers can sell their coins. There are currently over 150 dealers on the site (yours truly is on there too). Admittedly I don't sell a ton on VCoins because I find that it is hard to break through the clutter and my coins tend to be higher in value than a majority of the coins. I use VCoins mainly for advertising myself and meeting new customers who might be interested in using my auction representation services.

For those of you that know VCoins I'd love to hear what you think of it. At the moment, many from the VCoins community are brainstorming on how to make the site better.

If you could answer a few questions for me and write me back I would appreciate it!

1. Why do you or don't you shop on VCoins?
2. Do you feel comfortable with the ethical standards that VCoins promises?
3. Would you like to see a "best offer" option on the site?
4. What improvements would you like to see on VCoins?

For those that aren't familiar with VCoins here is a link to my store page. Everything on the VCoins store is also available on my site.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)*Upcoming Auctions this Week:***Obolos (Nomos) (closes July 9, 2017)**

A little last minute but Obolos has a web auction closing tomorrow with 665 ancient lots.

CNG EAuction 401 (closes July 12, 2017)

CNG has bi-monthly auctions with interesting coins. This particular one has 769 lots. I really enjoy working with CNG because they have great coins and typically have very low starting prices. Generally good coins will bring hammer prices that align with what they are worth but one never knows if something might slight through the cracks! Please let me know if I can help you with this auction.

Hess-Divo EAuction 16 (closes July 13, 2017)

A small group of ancient coins are on offer in this EAuction. Worth checking out the 332 lots of which 38 are ancient coins.

Coin of the Week <http://www.shannaschmidt.com/coin-of-the-week/>

The coin this week is the first Byzantine coin I am offering on my site. I have a small group of Byzantine gold coins that have pedigrees so I'm happy to finally branch into this area a bit more.

Constantine IX Monomachus, 1042-1055 AD.

Constantinople. AV Histamenon Nomisma (scyphate), 4.44g (27mm, 6h). +IHS XIS REX – REGNAN[TiHm] Christ, nimbate, enthroned facing raising r. hand in benediction and holding book of Gospels in l. / + (CohST) – A hTh – bASILE[hS Rm] Bust facing, wearing crown with cross and pendilia and loros, holding labarum and globus cruciger

Pedigree: Ex Karl Kress Auction, Munich July 1971, lot 873

Price: \$1,000

Constantine IX became the third husband of the empress Zoe, the daughter of Constantine VIII. Zoe and her sister Theodora ruled for a meager 7 1/2 weeks before Constantine IX became emperor. As emperor he was not very effective. He was against building up the military and instead spent the much needed money on unnecessary extravagances. The later Byzantine rulers were constantly at risk of losing territory so military at that time was essential and Constantine clearly did not understand the importance of having a strong military.

The biggest disappointment of his reign was the damaged relationship with the Papacy when he tried to gain their support in the fight against the Normans. This severely affected the relationship between the Church and the Emperor. One significant contribution that Constantine made was the establishment of a university in Constantinople.

References: Sear 1829. DOC 2a

Grade: Nice strike with some minor spots of encrustation on the edges. EF

If you are interested in this coin please email shanna@shannaschmidt.com

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Until next week!
Shanna



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